

Message Text

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KWARA STATE'S NIGERIAN HERALD (MARCH 25) CARRIED LENGTHY ARTICLE BY ITS ECONOMIC EDITOR, YAKUBU ABDULAZEEZ (IN U.S. ON WORLD PRESS INSTITUTE GRANT), PLUS SIDE-BAR EDITORIAL, STRONGLY CRITICIZING U.S.-NIGERIAN RELATIONSHIPS.

ABDULAZEEZ REPORTED STAR-NEWS COVERAGE OF JUDGE CAMPBELL'S JAN. 22 TRAFFIC COURT REMARK THAT NIGERIAN STUDENTS ARE "LIARS," TOLD OF NIGERIAN STUDENT REACTION, BUT SAID "STATE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS THAT UNDER THE AMERICAN SYSTEM, THERE IS NOTHING THEY COULD DO TO THE JUDGE."

ABDULAZEEZ RECALLS NIXON-GOWON NON-MEETING, SAYS RELATIONS TOWARD NIGERIA UNDER FORD HAVE "NOT CHANGED SO MUCH," COMPLAINS US NEWS MEDIA "HARDLY MENTION NIGERIA AS THE SINGLE LARGEST EXPORTER OF OIL TO THE UNITED STATES." WRITER SUGGESTS THIS IS BECAUSE U.S. "JEWISH LOBBY" WANTS TO CONCENTRATE ON ARABS, ASKS WHY RUSIA--WHICH DOES NOT HAVE TO BUY NIGERIAN OIL--IS BUILDING NIGERIAN STEEL MILL, WHY NIGERIAN STUDENTS.. BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE BEING SINGLED OUT BY THE US IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IN ITS CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS?"

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ABDULAZEEZ CONCLUDES AFRICA HAS LOW PRIORITY FOR AMERICA, WITH

ZAIRE AND ETHIOPIA GETTING HIGHEST ATTENTION, BUT SAYS THAT "WITH ITS OIL WEALTH, NIGERIA INDEED IS THE TRIGGER.. BUT SHALL WE FLEX OUR MUSCLES? WHEN WILL PETRO-NAIRA SNEEZE AND IF ONLY FOR TWO SECONDS, MAKE AMERICA CATCH COLD?"

ACCOMPANYING EDITORIAL ("AMERICA VS NIGERIA") RETELLS TRAFFIC COURT STORY, SAYS:

".. JUDGE CAMPBELL, IF NIGERIANS WERE LIARS, AN AMERICAN SHOULD BE THE LAST PERSON TO SAY SO BECAUSE BY NATURE, THE UNITED STATES.. IS THE HOME OF ALL CRIMES AND VICES. WATERGATE IS STILL FRESH IN OUR MEMORY, BUT THE WORLD KNOWS THAT THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY IS THE CITADEL OF LIE, FALSEHOOD, DECEPTION AND ALL CONCEIVABLE CRIMES..."

"WE VIEW JUDGE CAMPBELL'S SLY REMARKS ON NIGERIA, AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT WITH SYMPATHY; IT IS THE SAD EFFECT OF THE DEFORMITY IN THE MISSEDUCATION OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM; SUCH MISSEDUCATION HAS KEPT AMERICAN PEOPLE COMPLETELY IGNORANT ABOUT THE REST OF THE WORLD.

"AS A REACTION TO THE SENSELESS TALK OF JUDGE CAMPBELL, OUR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY MUST DEMAND AN OPEN APOLOGY FROM THE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT AND AMERICA SHOULD BE TOLD THAT NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO INSULT NIGERIANS AS A PEOPLE.

"JUDGE CAMPBELL, WHO IS NOT A LIAR IN THE US? TELL US."

HEDGES

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